	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/068,033	CRAGUN ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	Jonathan G. Sterrett	3623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to <u>20070704</u>.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>1-41</u>.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None of the:

      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of

      Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date <u>20070704</u> .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

TARIQ R. HAFIZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

Allowance

1.   **Claims 1-41** are pending and allowed in the application. **Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 30-39, and 41** have been amended. Please see the examiner's amendment and reasons for allowance below.

Terminal Disclaimer

2.   The terminal disclaimer filed on 6-19-2007 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of the patent granted for application 10-068,497 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Examiner's Amendment

3.   An examiner's amendment to the record is attached to the Office Action. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Joan Pennington Reg. 30,885 on 15 June 2007. See attached interview summary.

4.   The following claims represent the claims pending in the application.

     1. (currently amended)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams performed by an electronic calendar meeting scheduling program, said method comprising the steps of:

     storing meeting settings and invitees data for a meeting for each of the delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams; said meeting settings and invitees data including an invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data;

     identifying a solution time block for automated meeting scheduling including at least a subset of a plurality of selected invitees utilizing said stored invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data;

     said stored meeting settings and invitee data including a quorum value, a quorum meeting value, a quorum invitee value; an invitee value, a delegate value, and a team member value;

     said electronic calendar meeting scheduling program utilizing said stored meeting settings and invitees data to calculate a selection score for each potential time block for the automated meeting scheduling; wherein said selection score is calculated using the largest increment associated with said meeting settings and invitees data and said meeting attendee automation properties to result in a maximum calculated selection score;

said electronic calendar meeting scheduling program utilizing said maximum

calculated selection score to identify said solution time block for the automated

meeting scheduling; and

said electronic calendar meeting scheduling program storing said identified

solution time block for the automated meeting scheduling.

2. (original)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using delegates,

representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 1 wherein said step of

identifying said solution time block for automated meeting scheduling including at least

said subset of a plurality of selected invitees includes the steps of identifying said

subset of said plurality of selected invitees including at least one of an identified

minimum number of said plurality of selected invitees; a quorum for a meeting

scheduled; and a substitute for one or more of said plurality of selected invitees.

3. (previously presented)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using

delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 1 wherein the step

of storing meeting settings and invitees data for said meeting for each of the delegates,

representatives, quorums, and teams; said meeting settings and invitees data including

an invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data

includes the steps of storing a required time period for said meeting, an earliest meeting

date; a latest meeting date; and said selected invitees to said meeting.

4. (currently amended)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using

delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 1 includes the steps

of wherein calculating a selection score for each potential time block for automated

meeting scheduling utilizing said stored meeting settings and invitees data ~~including said invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data~~ includes initializing said selection score.

5. (original)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 4 includes the steps of sorting said potential time blocks for automated meeting scheduling by highest calculated selection scores.

6. (currently amended)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 4 ~~wherein the step of identifying said solution time block for automated meeting scheduling including at least said subset of said plurality of selected invitees utilizing said stored invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data includes the steps of identifying said solution time block for automated meeting scheduling including at least said subset of said plurality of selected invitees utilizing said calculated selection score for each potential time block~~ 5 includes discarding unusable time blocks.

7. (currently amended)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 4 ~~wherein the step of calculating said selection score for each potential time block for automated meeting scheduling~~ includes the steps of identifying a potential time block marked as unusable and setting said selection score to unusable.

8. (original)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 4 wherein the step of

calculating said selection score for each potential time block for automated meeting

scheduling includes the steps of increasing said selection score for each available

quorum member; and checking for a quorum of available quorum members.

9. (original) A method for automated meeting scheduling using delegates,

representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 8 includes the step responsive

to identifying less than said quorum of available quorum members, of setting said

selection score to unusable.

10. (original)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using

delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 8 includes the steps

responsive to identifying said quorum of available quorum members, checking for each

required attendee whether said required attendee is available; and increasing said

selection score for each available required attendee.

11. (original)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using

delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 10 includes the step

responsive to identifying said required attendee is not available, of checking for each

available delegate for identifying an available delegate.

12. (original)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using

delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 11 includes the step

responsive to not identifying an available delegate, of setting said selection score to

unusable.

13. (original)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using

delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 12 includes the

steps responsive to identifying an available delegate, checking for requires consultation, and responsive to not identifying requires consultation, increasing said selection score by an identified delegate value; and storing said identified available delegate.

14. (previously presented)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 12 includes the steps responsive to identifying requires consultation and an attendee available for consult, storing said attendee available for consult and increasing said selection score by said identified delegate value; and storing said identified available delegate.

15. (original)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 4 wherein the step of calculating said selection score for each potential time block for automated meeting scheduling includes the steps increasing said selection score for each available team member; and storing a list of available team members.

16. (original)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 15 includes the step of checking for a threshold number of available team members.

17. (original)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 16 includes the steps of responsive to identifying less than said threshold number of available team members, setting said selection score to unusable.

18. (original)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 16 includes the

steps responsive to identifying said threshold number of available team members, of

checking for each individual consultant whether said individual consultant is available

for consultation.

19. (original)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using

delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 18 includes the

steps responsive to identifying said individual consultant is not available for

consultation, of setting said selection score to unusable.

20. (original)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using

delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 15 includes the

steps of increasing said selection score for each team member consulting; and checking

for a threshold number of team members consulting.

21. (original)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using

delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 20 includes the

steps responsive to identifying less than said threshold number of team members

consulting, of setting said selection score to unusable.

22. (original)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using

delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 1 wherein the step

of identifying said solution time block for automated meeting scheduling including at

least said subset of said plurality of selected invitees utilizing said invitee attendance

type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data includes the steps of

performing an approve meeting routine for a solution time block; and checking for a

scheduled status responsive to performing said approve meeting routine.

23. (original)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 22 further includes the steps responsive to identifying said scheduled status, of performing a finalize meeting routine.

24. (original)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 22 further includes the steps responsive to not identifying said scheduled status, of releasing blocked off time for said solution time block and marking said solution time block as unusable.

25. (previously presented)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 22 wherein the step of performing an approve meeting routine includes the steps for each attendee and consultant, of blocking off calendar for said solution time block and inviting each said attendee and consultant.

26. (previously presented)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 25 wherein the steps of blocking off calendar for said solution time block and inviting each said attendee and consultant includes the steps blocking off calendar for said solution time block and inviting each delegate.

27. (original)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 25 includes the steps for each team of identifying a number of team members to invite; blocking off

calendar for said solution time block and inviting said identified number of team

members.

28. (original).   A method for automated meeting scheduling using

delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 23 wherein said

step of performing said finalize meeting routine includes the steps for each non-

consulting attendees, of converting blocked off calendar for said solution time block to

meeting time block.

29. (original)   A method for automated meeting scheduling using

delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 24 includes the

steps for each rescheduled meeting, of sending rescheduled notices.

30. (currently amended)   A computer executed software program meeting

scheduler, running on a computer, for automated meeting scheduling using delegates,

representatives, quorums, and teams comprising:

an electronic calendar meeting scheduling program storing meeting settings and

invitees data for each of the delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams for a

meeting; said meeting settings and invitees data including an invitee attendance type,

delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data; and

said electronic calendar meeting scheduling program utilizing said stored invitee

attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data to identify a

solution time block for automated meeting scheduling including at least a subset of a

plurality of selected invitees;

said stored meeting settings and invitee data including a quorum value, a quorum

meeting value, a quorum invitee value; an invitee value, a delegate value, and a team member value;

said electronic calendar meeting scheduling program utilizing said stored meeting settings and invitees data to calculate a selection score for each potential time block for the automated meeting scheduling; wherein said selection score is calculated using the largest increment associated with said meeting settings and invitees data and said meeting attendee automation properties to result in a maximum calculated selection score;

said electronic calendar meeting scheduling program utilizing said maximum calculated selection score to identify said solution time block for the automated meeting scheduling; and

said electronic calendar meeting scheduling program storing said identified solution time block for the automated meeting scheduling.

31. (currently amended)   A computer executed software program meeting scheduler for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 30 wherein said electronic calendar meeting scheduling program identifying said solution time block for automated meeting scheduling including at least said subset of a plurality of selected invitees including includes said electronic calendar meeting scheduling program identifying said subset of said plurality of selected invitees including at least one of an identified minimum number of said plurality of selected invitees; a quorum for a meeting scheduled; and a substitute for one or more of said plurality of selected invitees.

32. (currently amended)   A <u>computer executed software program</u> meeting scheduler for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 30 ~~includes~~ <u>wherein</u> said electronic calendar meeting scheduling program utilizing said stored meeting settings and invitees data ~~including said invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data~~ to calculate a selection score for each potential time block for automated meeting scheduling <u>includes initializing said selection score</u>.

33. (currently amended)   A <u>computer executed software program</u> meeting scheduler for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 32 ~~wherein said electronic calendar meeting scheduling program utilizing said stored invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data to identify said solution time block for automated meeting scheduling including at least a subset of a plurality of selected invitees includes said electronic calendar meeting scheduling program utilizing said calculated selection score for each potential time block for automated meeting scheduling to identify said solution time block for automated meeting scheduling~~ <u>includes discarding unusable time blocks</u>.

34. (currently amended)   A <u>computer executed software program</u> meeting scheduler for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 32 wherein said electronic calendar meeting scheduling program utilizing said stored meeting settings and invitees data ~~including said invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data~~ to

calculate said selection score for each said potential time block for automated meeting

scheduling includes said electronic calendar meeting scheduling program providing an

increased selection score based upon each available quorum member.

35. (currently amended)   A computer executed software program meeting

scheduler for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives,

quorums, and teams as recited in claim 32 wherein said electronic calendar meeting

scheduling program utilizing said stored meeting settings and invitees data ~~including~~

~~said invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data~~ to

calculate said selection score for each said potential time block for automated meeting

scheduling includes said electronic calendar meeting scheduling program providing said

selection score set to unusable based upon identifying less than a quorum of available

quorum members; identifying an insufficient number of available team members; or

identifying an insufficient number of available consulting team members.

36. (currently amended)   A computer executed software program meeting

scheduler for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives,

quorums, and teams as recited in claim 32 wherein said electronic calendar meeting

scheduling program utilizing said stored meeting settings and invitees data ~~including~~

~~said invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data~~ to

calculate said selection score for each said potential time block for automated meeting

scheduling includes said electronic calendar meeting scheduling program providing an

increased selection score based upon each available required attendee.

37. (currently amended)   A <u>computer executed software program</u> meeting scheduler for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 32 wherein said electronic calendar meeting scheduling program utilizing said stored meeting settings and invitees data ~~including~~ ~~said invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data~~ to calculate said selection score for each said potential time block for automated meeting scheduling includes said electronic calendar meeting scheduling program providing an increased selection score based upon each available delegate.

38. (currently amended)   A <u>computer executed software program</u> meeting scheduler for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 32 wherein said electronic calendar meeting scheduling program utilizing said stored meeting settings and invitees data ~~including~~ ~~said invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data~~ to calculate said selection score for each said potential time block for automated meeting scheduling includes said electronic calendar meeting scheduling program providing an increased selection score based upon each available team member.

39. (currently amended)   A <u>computer executed software program</u> meeting scheduler for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams as recited in claim 32 wherein said electronic calendar meeting scheduling program utilizing said stored meeting settings and invitees data ~~including~~ ~~said invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data~~ to calculate said selection score for each said potential time block for automated meeting

scheduling includes said electronic calendar meeting scheduling program providing an

increased selection score based upon each individual consultant.

40. (currently amended)   A <u>computer executed software program</u> meeting

scheduler for automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives,

quorums, and teams as recited in claim 32 wherein said electronic calendar meeting

scheduling program utilizing said stored meeting settings and invitees data ~~including~~

~~said invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data~~ to

calculate said selection score for each said potential time block for automated meeting

scheduling includes said electronic calendar meeting scheduling program providing an

increased selection score based upon each team member consultant for each team

consulting.

41. (currently amended)   A computer <u>executed software</u> program product for

automated meeting scheduling using delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams,

said computer <u>executed software</u> program product including a plurality of computer

executable instructions stored on a computer readable medium, wherein said

instructions, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform the steps of:

storing meeting settings and invitees data for each of the delegates,

representatives, quorums, and teams for a meeting; said meeting settings and invitees

data including an invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and

teams data;

~~calculating a selection score for each potential time block for automated meeting~~

~~scheduling utilizing said stored meeting settings and invitees data including said invitee~~

~~attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data; and setting said~~

~~selection score to unusable responsive to identifying less than a quorum of available~~

~~quorum members; identifying an insufficient number of available team members; or~~

~~identifying an insufficient number of available consulting team members;~~

~~discarding each said potential time block having said selection score set to~~

~~unusable;~~

identifying a solution time block for automated meeting scheduling utilizing said

invitee attendance type, delegates, representatives, quorums, and teams data with said

calculated selection score for each said potential time block;

said stored meeting settings and invitee data including a quorum value, a quorum

meeting value, a quorum invitee value; an invitee value, a delegate value, and a team

member value;

utilizing said stored meeting settings and invitees data to calculate a selection

score for each potential time block for the automated meeting scheduling; wherein said

selection score is calculated using the largest increment associated with said meeting

settings and invitees data and said meeting attendee automation properties to result in

a maximum calculated selection score;

utilizing said maximum calculated selection score to identify said solution time block

for the automated meeting scheduling; and

storing said identified solution time block for the automated meeting scheduling.

Allowable Subject Matter

5.   **Claims 1-41** are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

6.   The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject

matter:

While pieces of prior art each teach many of the features of the claimed

invention, there is no motivation found within the art to combine these teachings to

result in the claimed subject matter and, even if one was to combine the references, the

combination would not expressly result in the claimed subject matter.

The prior art reference most closely resembling the Applicant's claimed invention

is Comny US 6,101,480, (hereinafter **Comny**).

As for independent **Claims 1, 30 and 41,** none of the prior art of record, taken

individually or in any combination, teach, inter alia,

Storing meeting settings and invitees data for scheduling a meeting; where the

meeting settings and invitees data contain a variety of scored options for selecting a

particular time slot for scheduling a meeting;

where the selection scores are calculated from the meeting settings and invitees

data using all of the following: a quorum value, a quorum meeting value, a quorum

invitee value; an invitee value, a delegate value, and a team member value;

calculating for the meeting settings and invitees data a selection score for each

property for all the attendees, such that the overall selection score is minimized for

scheduling the meeting in a particular time slot.

Comny teaches an approach for selecting a meeting scheduling time based on a

lowest weighted value assigned to the attendees, however Comny does not use the

same scores as the instant application and Comny teaches that in iterating to find the

lowest value, some attendees may be dropped from being scheduled into the meeting.

The instant application calculates a selection score based on a given number of

attendees, without dropping any from being considered for a schedule. Additionally,

Comny does not teach the quorum value, quorum meeting value, a quorum invitee

value, an invitee value, a delegate value and a team member value; where these values

are used by the instant application in selecting a time slot for scheduling a meeting.

Also Comny uses a minimization approach, i.e. the meeting is schedule based on a

minimum score, while the instant application uses a maximum score to determine when

a meeting is to be scheduled. A minimization approach tends towards leaving people

out when scheduling a meeting (so that the lowest possible score is achieved) while a

score maximization approach, as taught by the instant application, tends towards

including people in the meeting, since the score is increased for each additional

member who can attend.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7.　　The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

JP 06028361 A by Griffin discloses a scheduling method that uses parameters and time blocks.

8.　　Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan G. Sterrett whose telephone number is 571-272-6881. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on 571-272-6729.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JGS

7-4-2007

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